

TALKING POINTS (82R)

I. THE THREAT OF FRAUD IS REAL

- Deceased voters, felons, duplicate registrations, and non-residents remain on voter rolls (*2007 State Auditor report found over 49,000 of these possible ineligible voters*)
- Fraudulent registration applications are rampant (*over 6,000 applications by non-citizens rejected in Harris County from 2004-2007, 2008 ACORN and 2010 Houston Votes registration scandals made national news*)
- Texas Election Administration Management (TEAM) system is improving, but continues to have accuracy problems
- Current election system is inadequate to catch in-person voting fraud

II. THIS BILL PROTECTS TEXAS VOTERS

- Deters and detects fraud
- Improves and modernizes election procedures
- Protects against fraud enabled by inaccurate registration rolls
- Counts only eligible voters' votes
- Protects public confidence in elections

(These points are taken directly from Supreme Court opinion describing Indiana's "legitimate state interests" in adopting photo ID)

III. THIS BILL REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO ENSURE THAT EVERY ELIGIBLE VOTER CAN VOTE AND THAT ONLY LEGITIMATE VOTES ARE COUNTED

- Simplified bill requires photo ID
- includes exemption for voters over 70 and a procedure for counting provisional ballots
- Similar to Indiana and Georgia laws (which were both upheld by the federal authorities)
- Requires months of statewide voter education efforts before law takes effect